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THE BLUFFTON PEACE SENTINEL

Vol. 1

Bluffton, Indiana, July 25, 1941

No. 1

LARGEST C.P.S. CAMP OPENS

QUARTETTE AT ARCHBOLD

On Sunday afternoon Phil Frey took the camp quartette, Ralph Pletcher, Edwin Rutt, Judson Hill and Loris Habegger with him to Archbold, Ohio. A sumptuous picnic supper was held at the home of one of Phil's friends. After the supper the group went to the Lockport Mennonite Church near Archbold. Here they had charge of the evening service. The quartette presented several numbers, also their personal testimonies. Carl Lehman, who accompanied the group, gave a short address on the subject "The Place of the Christian in the World". The main address of the evening was given by Mr. Frey in a forceful manner. A large crowd filled the church to capacity. All standing room was taken with some turned away for lack of room. This shows that there are large numbers of people who are backing us with their prayers and financial support. It also affords a fine opportunity for contact between the camp and those churches supporting us.

FRIENDS IN DEED

We wish to express our appreciation for the way friends from near and far have helped us in getting started after we arrived in camp. Among the many gifts we received were two pianos, three floor rugs, a sewing machine, a dinner bell, six bushels of wheat, five bushels of apples, one and one half bushels of lettuce, three dozen aprons and seven dozen towels. Also cherries, huckleberries, pickles and many other articles of food. These things are greatly appreciated.

MEN FROM SIX STATES ARRIVE

The largest C.P.S. Camp in the U.S.A. was formally opened on the arrival of 83 draftees on June 23, from various sections of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, at the grounds of the former CCC camp near Bluffton, Indiana.

A small detachment arrived during the heat of the day when the ebb of enthusiasm was low. After setting up their cots and stacking their luggage, a number of them were immediately dispatched for kitchen service which seemed of first importance since by evening 50 hungry men were anxiously waiting to gulp down whatever food might be handed to them.

The total of 83 was reached at 7:30 P.M. when 33 more travel weary selectees arrived at Bluffton by bus from Holmes & Wayne Counties Ohio. Thirty of these boys were Amish.

A telephone call to camp soon brought several staff cars to transport the group to its destination. However, due to the enormous amount of luggage the boys carried with them, it was necessary to make numerous trips to complete the last lap of the hot days journey.

After the 9:00 o'clock supper the boys buckled down to carrying cots, mattresses, blankets, and baggage by aid of flashlights, until every one was settled, at least temporarily, with a place to sleep

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A delegation of campees are leaving Friday evening to take part in a peace conference to be held in the Eighth Street Mennonite Church at Goshen, Indiana, Saturday, July 26.

FISH AND GAME PROJECT

Under the present work program there are fifty of us boys who are working for the Fish and Game Division of the Indiana Department of Conservation. The Game Reserve is just a short distance west of our camp site.

Our friend Delmar Stahly is the work foreman of this group. One of the foremost functions of this division is that of raising wild animals and game birds. Ringneck pheasants, quail, and gray racoon are raised here by the thousands. Later these birds and animals are released in order to improve the supply of wild game throughout the state. Other animals found in the park are buffalo, elk, deer, bears, wolves, foxes, coyotes, bob-cats, minks, porcupines, and others. These however are kept principally to add attraction to the park.

There are a number of different kinds of work the boys do under this division. The appearance of the park has been greatly improved during the past three weeks by boys using scythes, sickles, shovels, hoes, rakes, forks, and lawn-mowers. Some of the group dipped about eight hundred steel quail pens in creosote last week as a disease preventive. There are about seventeen hundred wooden pens that will have to be sprayed. Others have helped to separate pheasants.

Some of the boys have been helping stack oats which was cut with a mower. The work has been going along nicely with only one misfortune: the second stack fell over before it was properly tied down. The oats will be used for buffalo feed.

WHO'S WHO

Who is this member of our camp? He plays a trumpet and his chief hobby is reading. He last worked in the sanitation department of one of Chicago's large meat-packing plants, was once a salesman selling co-operative auto insurance, binder twine, and oil. He is unusually interested in practical peace movements of the present day. He is a minister's son and comes from "The Nation's Dairyland" where he was a student in the state university.

(Answer next issue)

CAMP OPENS (continued from page 1)

The arrival of 49 more selectees on Thursday, June 26, supplied the camp with enough manpower to complete the remodeling to the extent that by Saturday evening all were located in their permanent dormitories.

Health precautions for the boys have been taken by giving them three shots in the arm for the prevention of typhoid and a vaccination for smallpox.

There are now 32 men doing camp maintenance work. This includes kitchen, laundry, and office workers, janitors, and general ground work. The men on general ground duty are finishing up the detail work in remodeling, painting, and repairing, as well as maintaining and improving the appearance of the site.

The spirit of the group is one of whole-hearted unity, and voluntary extra service whenever such is needed. The atmosphere is that of a clean, high-minded society with spiritual fervor for the things that make for peace and good-will. It is the aim of the staff and of the boys in general to not only constantly maintain this high standard, but also to reach out into the immediate and surrounding communities by way of spare time service to neighboring cities and farmers and choral and quartet work in conferences, churches, etc.

The first church service was held on June 29 in the dining hall, due to lack of seating facilities for the Chapel.

This service revealed a unity and spirit of oneness in purpose that was most impressive. The boys assisted Rev. Hartzler by quoting scripture verses from memory and expressing spiritual truths that were inspiring and uplifting. In spite of the lack of song books, the boys sang numerous songs with stirring fervor.

Sunday, July 20, was the first time the chapel was used for Church and Sunday School services. The high spirit and fine co-operation of the newly appointed teachers and their classes revealed the finest type of spiritual unity, giving promise of real possibilities for the camp Church. It is the desire of the entire camp to make the chapel and its activities the center of our life during the duration of our stay here.

SPEED'S KITCHEN MIRROR

Lyle Strauss has a hobby of reading bedtime stories to the dish washers while working.

The spray painter ran out of work one day and painted part of Eli Miller's face green. It appeared very accidental.

Dennis D. Lehman had to call Miss Schrock out of bed when she failed to appear for breakfast.

Miss Ramseyer seems to be perfect as we can't find any fault so far. Of course we did not break many dishes yet.

Shorty Hershberger went out to hang up dish towels. He ran up the ladder and on to the kitchen roof. The dish washers still laugh at his attempts to get down in the midst of flying water from the kitchen.

Shorty has also asked for a want ad. He wants a little wife, just any kind. That's Shorty for you.

ERNIE SPECIAL BEDTIME STORY BY Ernest Christner

One morning two carpenters started work on a house when one of them was surprised to see the other going through his apron and throwing away about half of the nails.

"What are you throwing those nails away for?" he asked.

"Those nails?" the other replied, "why the dumb heads are on the wrong end".

The first carpenter puzzled over this a while and finally picked up one of the nails and examined it very closely.

"Wait a minute", he said, "those nails belong on the other side of the house".

The best joke played in dorm B was played on Gordon Liechty. He fell asleep one evening just before supper. Everyone left the dorm carefully and quietly so as not to wake him. We had a good supper Gordon!

SPORTS

Our sporting facilities have continued to increase. From humble beginnings such as a softball bat and three or four balls, our sporting equipment now includes two croquet sets, a good tennis court, two sets of horse shoes, and several new balls and bats.

We have several good softball players, enough to make a championship team we are sure. However with the needed divisions the camp will be represented by the following:

| Team A | Position | Team B |
|----------------|----------|----------------|
| L. Hartman | C | D. Stahly |
| E. Christner | P | G. Smith |
| Wm. Miller | 1 | E. Frye |
| P. Birky | 2 | W. Gross |
| K. Miller | 3 | N. Raber |
| D. Weaver | SS | A. Mishler |
| W. Hershberger | SF | J. Plank |
| C. Yoder | LF | J. Hershberger |
| M. Steury | CF | E. Ulrich |
| O. Kauffman | RF | A. Yoder |
| M. Aupperle | Sub. | G. Habegger |
| E. Yoder | Sub. | F. Miller |
| L. Lengacher | Sub. | J. Weaver |

| Team C | Position | Team D |
|----------------|----------|--------------|
| D. Yoder | C | F. McGee |
| C. Gunden | P | C. Raber |
| H. Birky | 1 | J. Slabach |
| L. Kline | 2 | P. Yoder |
| A. Jones | 3 | E. Rutt |
| L. Hershberger | SS | J. Kooi |
| G. Liechty | SF | L. Habegger |
| J. Weaver | LF | M. Wengard |
| J. Whetstone | CF | P. Hostetler |
| N. Mast | RF | M. Christner |
| O. Miller | Sub. | G. Mathews |
| L. Miller | Sub. | E. Schrock |
| E. Miller | Sub. | H. Stutzman |

Albert Hershberger--Score keeper
Phil Frey---Honorary umpire

SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Monday, July 28 | A vs. C |
| Wednesday, July 30 | B vs. D |
| Friday, August 1 | A vs. B |
| Monday, August 4 | C vs. D |
| Wednesday, August 6 | A vs. D |
| Friday, August 8 | B vs. C |

THE BLUFFTON PEACE SENTINEL

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- D. Kenneth Miller, Kouts, Indiana
- E. Elmer Gingerich, Hartville, Ohio
- F. Joni Yoder, Millersburg, Ohio
- G. Frederick Miller, Bremen, Indiana
- H. Levi Hershberger, Dundee, Ohio

Staff Advisor-----Alta Schrock

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if purchased at the camp, four cents by mail.
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MA'S MEDITATIONS

Alta Schrock

The telephone rang and I hastened to the Dean's home to meet Dr. Fast. The few pointed words he spoke in our half hour's interview struck deep and held true, for less than a week before we had had an inspiring Peace Conference at Bluffton College. The challenge was a tremendous stimulus to me from the first; but it struggled hard the desire for a rich, full summer with my family, a vacation in the Maine Mountains with my sisters, use of a Research Grant given by the Pa. Acad. of Sciences, the thought of friends who were coming to the cabin for a season of woodland refreshment, the lure of an uncopied manuscript (the story of our people), a season of rest with days of tilling the warm earth in the herb garden, twilight story hour in the sun garden, the purple mist of the mountains themselves with their long reach of personality.

Remembering all this, I wish now to say it has been worth all I left; I have no regrets in coming to live with 132 boys and 3 staff members. I believe in the camp with all my soul and am happy to live for it.

EDITORIALS

Sometimes it is well to be suddenly taken out of our environment and placed into an entirely different kind of environment. Nothing else brings us quite so thoroughly face to face with the realities outside the particular mould in which we may have been cast. We begin to see old things from a new perspective and are better able to appreciate the good and discard the unimportant. We who have been assigned to this camp find ourselves in just such a position.

To ourselves the Bluffton Peace Sentinel will aim to serve as a mirror in which we will find our attitudes reflected. We hope that to the public our paper will be a window through which they may see and better understand our sincere desire to serve our God and our country in the most effective way.

---CML

In becoming a conscientious objector each of us decided in his own mind and heart that he could not co-operate with the government and the military machine in the war effort. That is only half of the picture, though. At the same time we pledged ourselves to co-operate with all our minds and hearts in serving the government and the people in any work whose purpose was the upbuilding of society, not the destruction of any part of it.

Let each of us look into his heart now and throughout the uncertain years ahead and never forget that tie which binds--that of service.

---REZ

IN AND OUT OF THE DORMITORIES

Ten Allen county young folks were guests of Dorm G on July 13.

Rudolph Yoder is back in camp after a week end leave.

Noah Eicher, Menno Steury, Constance Delagrange, Raymond Gerber, Willard Miller and Fred L. Miller are leaving camp on week end leave Friday evening July 25, and no doubt the time will be well spent.

Hartley Rhine is leaving on furlough a week after next to help thrashing.

Of the seventeen boys in dormitory E, fourteen are of the Old Order Amish Mennonites, one Conservative Amish Mennonite, and two Mennonites. Eight of the boys are working in the wild life game reserve. They mow and pull weeds and grass around pens, fix fence and other odds and ends. The others are working in the forestry division, taking care of small pine, walnut, locust and other young trees.

Ivan Badertscher was the lucky man over Sunday from dorm H. His girl friend was here and gave him a cake, cherries, blackberries and a number of other things for his birthday.

Dorm H seems to be the only one with out broken window panes. It is usually nice and quiet at night with the exception of Eli Hostettler's occasional talking and someone else snoring like an airplane.

Dorm D is very appreciative of the presents and good things to eat that their parents and girl friends bring them every Sunday.

DORM F.

The boys in dormitory F from Holmes County, Ohio extend a friendly greeting in the Lord to all readers. They had an Old Order meeting last Sunday in their dormitory after the regular Church services. This was the first meeting of their own since arriving at camp.

(Con't on page 6)

HOW WE GOT TOGETHER

By Rev. R. L. Hartzler

Late in 1941 as the number of conscientious objectors mounted higher and higher, it became apparent that the Mennonite Central Committee must needs include a third camp in its proposed program of civilian service activity. With Ohio and Indiana providing a large number of IV-E men, a site in one of those states became highly desirable.

Being advised that the CCC camp at Bluffton, Ind. would probably be closed early in 1941, attention was turned to that place as a possible camp site. However, the Federal Bureau of Soil Conservation felt that there was no real need for a work program of that nature in the Bluffton area.

The attention was accordingly transferred to the CCC site in Pokagon State Park near Angola, Ind. This section provided an adequate need for soil conservation work; but since the park is a very popular resort, Gen. Hershey disapproved of the location of a Civilian Service camp there, feeling that on Sundays especially, the camp would be overrun by curiosity seekers. No doubt he was right. When one considers the detracting and possible mischievous affect of such visitation, it is apparent that Gen. Hershey acted wisely.

So the scene of effort was returned to Bluffton and contact made with the Department of Conservation of the state of Indiana, with a view of arranging a work program in the state Forest and Game Preserve adjoining the Bluffton camp at this place was approved by Selective Service.

Considerable time elapsed while detailed procedures were being planned; but finally the opening of the camp was announced and assignments made, as a result of which the 136 of us (boys and staff members) find ourselves stationed here to live and work together.

CAMP STAFF

Director-----Rev. R.L. Hartzler
Business Manager-----Rev. Phil L. Frey
Cook and Dietician----Edna Ramseyer
Matron-----Alta Schrock

TID BITS

By Edna Ramseyer

"Men's work is from sun to sun but womans work is never done".

This proverb is now more clearly understood by the seventeen boys who cook, prepare vegetables, set tables, wash dishes, clean stoves, scrub floors etc. than it was at the beginning of camp.

Work is distributed, however, so that the boys do not need to put many more hours in than forty five or fifty for one week.

The food is ordered and the meals are planned by the dietician. The boys undersupervision do all the cooking and have done it very well.

According to latest figures we have been able to serve meals on approximately 39 cents per day per person.

For 136 servings of the following things it takes about 45 to 50 lbs. of meat, 30 to 40 lbs. of navy beans, 20 gallons of lemonade, 3 lbs of butter, 17 to 20 head of lettuce, 20 gallons of milk, 7 gallons of coffee, 15 gallons of soup, 6 gallons of fruit or pudding, 136 cookies, 24 pies, 2/3 gallons mayon-aise, 136 soft cooked eggs, 272 slices of toast, 6 gallons of gravy, 80 lbs. of white potatoes, 15 loaves of bread etc.

We as the kitchen group invite anyone to join us in the kitchen to receive instruction and experience in dish washing and drying, baking, cooking, paring of potatoes and even-why things scorch occasionally!

Thanks so much for being patient with us. And say--if you have a favorite recipe--why not hand it to the cooks. We will try to prepare it for you.

Salt your food with humor, pepper it with wit and sprinkle over it the charm of fellowship. Never poison it with the cares of life.

"Porky" Liechty sleeps longer in the morning because, as he says, he sleeps more slowly than most people.

IN AND OUT OF DORM
(cont. from page 5)

Even though we may not prefer camp life to our home life, we do enjoy the fellowship together. Evenings are sometimes spent in discussing the camp and other matters which we do not always get settled altogether. We have a devotional period for ourselves before we go to bed.

Those who can not sleep spend their time counting and studying the stars. Our next door neighbors are a great help to us. They remind us to quit talking and try to go to sleep at 9:30, which is very hard for us to learn. Friday evening is the time when some of us Holmsers are leaving for home, getting our first week-end leave. Atlee Raber may forget about this if we do not remind him.

We are thankful to God that He has provided a place for us and wish to be remembered in prayer.

The two Christners of dorm B are losing their umph. Ernie no longer gets the laughs with his nightly stories, possibly because he has stopped telling them. Melvin has quieted down considerably with his nocturnal conversations.

Kenneth McClure, the first selectee from dorm C to receive a week-end leave, returned Sunday night with the saddest story of the week. McClure left camp Friday evening. There were late busses and unreliable bus schedules. By 7:00 o'clock Sunday evening he had at last reached home at Carlock, Illinois. After a few short hours with his folks it was time to start back. The saddest part of the story: because of rain and camp regulations both days had to be charged as furlough!

Striking results of Saturday night's debate were noticed in dormitory C. Lyle Strauss, loser of the debate, took the decision seriously and lay in bed until five minutes before the bell and for the first time seriously threatened the record held by Ed. Miller.

FORESTRY DIVISION PROJECT

Monday June 30th, was the first day at the State Forest project for some ten men. These men were "Jack of all trades". They reported at the nursery at 7:00 A.M. not knowing just what their work might be but ready to do whatever would be asked of them. They did not have to wait long for Mr. Earhart, supervisor of the Forestry Division, soon set them to work. Possibly, there was a touch of disappointment in the minds of some as they assumed their new duties. A news reporter would have had little difficulty determining their new trade--a glance at their knees would have been quite revealing. They were now weed pullers.

To tell the truth now, the boys do not think the job as bad as it looks. While joking and laughing they yell "Timber" when a tree is pulled by mistake and keep picking and pricking away. They are the "Tree troopers", working without pay with hoe, shovel, and weeder as their weapons, and deer flies, mosquitoes and weeds as the enemy.

There are now fifty of us in this division working out our year of service in the State Forest, our religious convictions not permitting us to learn the grim business of warfare. One of our own number, Loris Habegger of Berne, Indiana is our immediate supervisor, being assisted by Ralph Pletcher of Goshen, Indiana.

SKILLED LABOR ABUNDANT

We are very fortunate in having several good carpenters and painters in camp. One of the first things we had to do on arriving at camp was to find out who could use the few tools that we had. It did not take long to find the experienced carpenters and get them started.

A great deal of carpentering and painting had been done before the boys arrived at camp. About 150 volunteers from the churches built the cupboards, kitchen partitions, dining room table tops and benches. The reception room, office, kitchen, dining room, hospital and one dorm had already been painted. So on their arrival the

boys began to finish the job--building wardrobes, partitions, and painting the other three dorms, the chapel and recreation room.

Others started trimming shrubbery, mowing the lawns, pulling weeds from the walks and beautifying the place in general. With a group of fifteen fellows working on the partitions and wardrobes, eighteen fellows painting and trimming, eight or ten sweeping and scrubbing the floors, we had progressed through the other buildings by Saturday night. The rest of the fellows were doing the weeding, hoeing, spading and mowing. A few skilled carpenters were building bookracks, magazine racks, foot stools, desks, dressers, chairs, stools, screen doors, shelves and benches. Thus things took shape and we got acquainted in the first week of our stay in camp. It was encouraging to note the interest and willingness the boys showed in their effort to make this the best camp of its kind in America.

PHIL'S PHILOSOPHY

By Phil Frey

Philosophy: Two women in camp are good but four would be a perfect nuisance.

On June 12, 1941, Rev. Hartzler and myself came to what has since been named "Civilian Public Service Camp No. 13" and found a place looking something like a meadow about ready to mow, with a few buildings scattered in it and an over supply of weeds. All the water mains had been cut and some of the fixtures frozen; the buildings looked smokey and gloomy. Needless to say, a rather gloomy feeling crept over us. The feeling however soon changed as we allowed ourselves to think not of the camp as it was, but what it might become.

A few days later the dietitian and the matron arrived and together we set about the task of fitting the camp. We were made very happy when large numbers of folk from various churches in Indiana and Ohio came to our assistance. The camp today looks very nice and is enjoyed by all with thanks to all who so kindly assisted us.

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